

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 350 - SB 527**

March 16, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires that the state pay for costs of court ordered inpatient mental health evaluations of juveniles who have been charged with commission of an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$7,236,700**

**Decrease Local Expenditures - \$75,600**

Assumptions:

- The Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (DMHDD) ceased payments of court ordered inpatient mental health evaluations of juveniles who had been charged with commission of an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult on September 1, 2008 as a result of the Court of Appeals decision *In Re J.B. (E2007-01467-COA-R3-JV)*.
- According to DMHDD, expenditures for the inpatient mental health evaluations of these juvenile in FY07-08 was approximately \$7,236,700. Reinstating the payments for these evaluations will result in an increase in state expenditures of at least \$7,236,700.
- As of September 1, 2008, the state has been paying for court ordered outpatient juvenile mental health evaluations and counties are paying for any court ordered inpatient juvenile mental health evaluations.
- When the state takes over payments for the inpatient juvenile mental health evaluations, there will be a decrease in local expenditures. According to DMHDD, after the counties took over payments of juvenile inpatient evaluations, the average number of evaluations decreased from 60 per month to one per month. It is estimated that local expenditures will decrease by at least \$75,600.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml